

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
AID-05 DLOS-09 OES-07 HA-05 ISO-00 IO-13 EB-08
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /121 W
-----061965 170830Z /11

R 170700Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5366
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TOKYO 2668

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: JA KS
SUBJECT: JAPAN-KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET

1. SUMMARY: ROK FONMIN PARK TONG JIN, IN MEETING WITH
FONMIN SONODA FEB 14 ENROUTE TO EUROPEAN CHIEFS OF MISSION
CONFERENCE, EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE ROKG ATTACHED TO PASSAGE
OF CONTINENTAL SHELF LEGISLATION. SONODA RAISED SEVERAL
OTHER BILATERAL ISSUES AND TOUCHED LIGHTLY ON QUESTION
OF KIM DAE JUNG'S WELFARE. FONOFF THOUGHT MEETING, SONODA'S
FIRST WITH KOREANS AS FONMIN, WAS GOOD BEGINNING.
END SUMMARY.

2. FONMIN PARK, DURING TOKYO STOPOVER ENROUTE TO EUROPEAN
CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE, MET WITH SONODA FOR ONE HOUR
LATE AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 14, AFTER WHICH SONODA HOSTED
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NON-WORKING DINNER. ACCORDING TO NORTHEASE ASIA DIVDEPDIR
KAWASHIMA, MEETING WENT SMOOTHLY AFTER RATHER TENSE
BEGINNING, WHICH KAWASHIMA ATTRIBUTED TO FACT FONOFF HAD
INFORMED KOREAN EMBASSY IN ADVANCE THAT SONODA WOULD WISH
TO BRIEFLY DISCUSS KIM DAE JUNG SITUATION. KAWASHIMA
THOUGHT IT ALSO REFLECTED KOREAN VIEW OF SONODA AS
GENERALLY UNSYMPATHETIC TO ROK.

3. PARK OPENED CONVERSATION BY RECORDING IMPORTANCE ROKG ATTACHED TO PASSAGE IN THIS DIET SESSION OF CONTINENTAL SHELF IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION. HE TERMED REPRESENTATION ON THIS ISSUE MAIN PURPOSE OF HIS TOKYO VISIT, AND SAID ROK HAD ALREADY WAITED FOUR YEARS FOR NECESSARY ACTION. FAILURE OF DIET TO ACT AGAIN THIS YEAR WOULD PROVOKE EXTREMELY SERIOUS PROBLEM IN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. SONODA SAID GOJ WOULD DO ITS UTMOST TO SECURE DIET APPROVAL, BUT CAUTIONED THAT WHILE ISSUE WAS UNDER DEBATE, ROKG WOULD DO WELL TO KEEP LOW PROFILE AND AVOID POINTING UP DIRE CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO PASS LEGISLATION. THIS HE FELT SURE WOULD HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECT IN DIET.

4. SONODA SAID HE RECOGNIZED SENSITIVITY OF KIM DAE JUNG QUESTION IN JAPAN-KOREA BILATERAL TERMS AND HAD NO WISH TO REOPEN ISSUE IN ANY SENSE. HE DID THINK IT IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, TO CONVEY VIA FONMIN TO PRESIDENT PARK CONTINUING INTENSE INTEREST AMONG JAPANESE IN KIM DAE JUNG'S WELFARE. PARK RESPONDED THAT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE FOR KOREAN PEOPLE THAT PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION IN OTHER COUNTRIES CONTINUED TO FOCUS ON WHAT WAS PURELY DOMESTIC MATTER. THERE WAS NO FURTHER DISCUSSION AND, ACCORDING TO KAWASHIMA, WITH THIS ITEM OUT OF WAY KOREANS RELAXED PERCEPTABLY.

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5. SONODA RAISED SEVERAL OTHER BILATERAL ISSUES, NONE OF WHICH WERE TREATED IN DETAIL:

--ROK TERRITORIAL WATERS. SONODA SAID GOJ WAS TROUBLED BY BASE LINES USED BY KOREANS IN DEFINING THEIR TERRITORIAL WATERS AND SUGGESTED TWO GOVERNMENTS REVIEW THIS PROBLEM AT WORKING LEVEL, ADDRESSING PARTICULARLY PROBLEMS POSED FOR FISHERIES AND QUESTION OF CHEJU STRAITS. DIRECTOR OF KOREAN FONMIN ASIA DIVISION WAS TO REMAIN IN TOKYO FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THIS AND OTHER ISSUES.)

-- ROK FISHING OFF HOKKAIDO. SONODA SAID THERE WAS INCREASING RESENTMENT AMONG HOKKAIDO FISHERMEN AT GROWING PRESENCE OF KOREAN BOATS, WHICH FORMERLY HAD OPERATED IN SOVIET WATERS. HE ASKED ROKG TO LOOK INTO PROBLEM, BUT DID NOT PRESS ISSUE -- SINCE, AS KAWASHIMA NOTED, IN TERMS OF NATIONAL AS OPPOSED TO REGIONAL FISHERIES INTERESTS JAPANESE HAD FAR MORE TO LOSE THAN GAIN BY OPENING QUESTION OF RESTRICTING ACCESS TO RESPECTIVE WATERS.

-- RELATIONS WITH PYONGYANG. SONODA REITERATED, BRIEFLY
AND IN STANDARD TERMS, GOJ POLICY TO SEEK EXPANDED
CONTACTS WITH DPRK. PARK RESPONDED BY URGING
CAUTION, BUT WHILE SUBSTANCE OF HIS REMARKS WAS
FAMILIAR, JAPANESE THOUGHT TONE WAS UNUSUALLY RELAXED.

--TAKESHIMA/TOKTO: BOTH SIDES STATED THEIR STANDARD
POSITIONS, WITHOUT ELABORATION OR ARGUMENT.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TOKYO 2668

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

6. TURNING TO US-KOREAN RELATIONS, SONODA SAID HIS OWN
VIEW WAS THAT, WITH PARK TONG SUNG AFFAIR APPARENTLY
UNDER CONTROL, WORST SEEMED TO BE OVER. PARK AGREED,
ASSERTING THAT CRISIS POINT IN US-KOREAN RELATIONS WAS
INDEED PAST AND THAT BILATERAL ATMOSPHERE COULD NOW BE
EXPECTED TO IMPROVE. WITH RESPECT TO TROOP WITHDRAWAL,
PARK SAID HE FELT MOOD IN WASHINGTON, INCLUDING
CONGRESS, WAS TENDING TOWARD CONCLUSION THAT WITHDRAWAL
POLICY SHOULD BE RECONSIDERED. KAWASHIMA SAID SONODA
DID NOT COMMENT, BEYOND NOTING THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD
RAISED WITHDRAWAL ISSUE WITH PRESIDENT LAST MARCH IN
MEETING HE ATTENDED AS CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY, AND THAT
HE WAS SURE US REMAINED SENSITIVE TO NEED FOR PRESERVING

STABILITY ON PENINSULA.

7. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF JAPAN-KOREA TRADE
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RELATIONS AND MASSIVE JAPANESE BILATERAL SURPLUS. KOREAN
AMBASSADOR KIM CONFIDED TO ASIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRGEN
NAKAE THAT KOREANS HAD CONSIDERED BRINGING UP TRADE
QUESTIONS BUT HAD DECIDED THAT, AS "GOOD NEIGHBOR,"
THEY SHOULD GIVE GOJ RESPITE ON THAT SCORE.

8. PARK PROPOSED THAT NEXT SESSION OF JAPAN-KOREA
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE BE HELD IN SEOUL IN LATE AUGUST
OR EARLY SEPTEMBER, TO WHICH JAPANESE SIDE AGREED IN
PRINCIPAL WITH DETAILS TO BE WORKED OUT LATER. SONODA
ALSO ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPAL INVITATION TO PAY SEPARATE
VISIT TO KOREA.

9. COMMENT: KAWASHIMA THOUGHT KOREANS WERE PLEASED
WITH THIS FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH SONODA, AND SAID JAPANESE
SIDE WAS SATISFIED WITH SCOPE AND CONTENT OF DISCUSSION,
AND RELATIVELY NONCONTENTIOUS ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH IT
TOOK PLACE. FONOFF RECOGNIZES, HOWEVER, THAT
CONTINUATION OF PREVAILING GOOD ATMOSPHERE IS DEPENDENT
ON FATE OF CONTINENTAL SHELF LEGISLATION. WE DO NOT
DOUBT THAT GOJ WILL MAKE MAJOR EFFORT TO SECURE PASSAGE,
BUT SUCCESS CANNOT BE ASSUMED.
MANSFIELD

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